



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## **PSC Urges Consumers to Look into Winter Weatherization and Budgeting Tools to Save Money during the Winter Months**

MADISON – As winter approaches, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) is informing utility consumers of weatherization and smart budgeting programs available throughout the state.

“Conserving energy means saving money, and for Wisconsin families on a budget, home weatherization is a good tool to help manage costs during the winter months,” according to Phil Montgomery, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission. “Assistance is available to help customers plan ahead for winter heating costs, and by taking a few common-sense measures early, residents can save money and energy.”

### **Energy Conservation and Weatherization**

The following resources are available to provide information on energy conservation and weatherization:

- Wisconsin Focus on Energy: (1-800-762-7077) or <http://focusonenergy.com/>
- Home Energy +: (1-866-432-8947) or <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

### **Budget Billing**

One option for consumers looking for smart utility budgeting tips is a “budget billing” option. This type of payment plan allows consumers to budget their utility bills by spreading winter heating costs over a 12-month period. Individual utilities inform consumers of their monthly “budget billing” amount, and typically review the budget every six months. If consumers choose this option, monthly usage should be monitored closely to ensure the result is not a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle.

### **Energy Assistance**

Energy assistance is available to income-eligible households with a gross household income at or below 60-percent of the median gross household income in Wisconsin. The links below can assist residents looking for information on whether or not they qualify and where to find assistance.

- Poverty level guidelines: (<http://psc.wi.gov/consumerInfo/assistancePrograms/poverty.htm>)
- Energy assistance locations: (<http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/section.asp?linkid=119&locid=25>)

### **Utility Assistance**

Many utilities offer tips for energy savings and weatherization programs on their web site or in an insert to a customer’s monthly bill. Consumers should contact their utility directly to obtain this information.

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